



## Frequently Asked Questions Iowa Veterans Cemetery

October 31, 2005

### 1. What steps are necessary in order to complete the Veterans Cemetery project?

Following is a tentative schedule for the project. It will be more fully developed collaboratively between the selected firm or firms, the State, and the USDVA. At this time we anticipate the actual grant award will be made during Federal FY 2006. The schedule illustrates consecutive calendar days for project tasks/phases:

Advertise RFP for Selection of Consultant(s)	October 19, 2005	(49 Days)
Execute Consultant Contract(s), Begin NEPA/NHPA Process	December 07, 2005	(30 Days)
Pre-Design Conference and Site Visit	January 06, 2006	(61 Days)
Submit Draft Master Plan	March 08, 2006	(29 Days)
Comments from State and USDVA	April 06, 2006	(90 Days)
Submit Design Development Documents	July 05, 2006	(30 Days)
Comments from State and USDVA	August 04, 2006	(17 Days)
Begin Construction Documents	August 21, 2006	(92 Days)
Submit 90% Construction Documents	November 21, 2006	(17 Days)
Receive Comments from State and USDVA	December 08, 2006	(14 Days)
Submit 100% Construction Documents	December 22, 2006	(5 Days)
Receive approval to Bid from USDVA	December 27, 2006	(8 Days)
Advertise for Bids	January 04, 2007	(21 Days)
Bid Opening	January 25, 2007	(60 Days)
Award Construction Contract	March 26, 2007	
Cemetery is Operational	TBD	

### 2. What steps have been completed?

- A. The Master Plan RFP has been advertised, as scheduled.
- B. The Master Plan RFP has been issued, as scheduled.
- C. The mandatory pre-proposal bidder meeting has been held, as scheduled.

### 3. When do we expect to break ground?

Anticipated during Fall 2006, contingent upon the agreement of all partnering entities.

### 4. What entities are partnering on the project?

- A. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (National Cemetery Administration)
- B. Department of Veterans Affairs (Iowa)
- C. Iowa Veterans Home, Marshalltown
- D. Iowa Department of Administrative Services (General Services Enterprise - GSE)
- E. Governor's Office

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**5. What is the scope of the project and the outcome that is expected when the project is completed?**

The proposed State Veterans Cemetery is to be located on approximately 100 acres in Dallas County, Iowa. Phase 1 of the project will be based on anticipated build-out for the next 10 years. The complete scope of Phase 1 will be developed as part of the master planning process. Required work also includes completion of necessary geotechnical, environmental, cultural and historical assessments of the site to meet state and federal requirements.

The master plan process will determine the maximum interment capacity of the site as well as all other features of the site, including but not limited to:

- |   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| ◆ Entry features                                    | ◆ An administration building  |
| ◆ Roads and parking                                 | ◆ A public information center |
| ◆ An Avenue of Flags                                | ◆ Public restrooms            |
| ◆ An assembly area                                  | ◆ A maintenance building      |
| ◆ Burial areas and burial sections                  | ◆ A service yard              |
| ◆ A committal service shelter                       | ◆ An irrigation system        |
| ◆ Columbarium and in-ground<br>cremain burial sites | ◆ Utility distribution system |
| ◆ A memorial walk                                   | ◆ A carillon tower            |

The site may also include a 1,500-square-foot structure for a military museum.

All specific requirements will be established during the master planning and design process in close cooperation with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) and following the guidelines of the federal grant program for veterans cemeteries. The grounds and facilities shall be designed for year round operation and as appropriate to Iowa's climate (four seasons).

**6. What is the total project funding and source of funds?**

- A. Up to \$7,000,000 from U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, National Cemetery Administration.
- B. Annual ongoing maintenance and administration – State General Fund, fees, or other sources after project completion.

**7. What are the roles and responsibilities of the partnering entities?**

- A. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (National Cemetery Administration)
  - Project fund provider; Consultant / advisor to project; Project compliance
- B. Department of Veterans Affairs (Iowa)
  - Consultant / Advisory
- C. Iowa Veterans Home, Marshalltown
  - Financial oversight
- D. Iowa Department of Administrative Services (GSE)
  - Project management
- E. Governor's Office
  - Project sponsor; Project policy

**8. What is the location of the site?**

The site is located due southeast of, and adjacent to, the Van Meter, Iowa, Interstate-80 interchange, approximately 20 miles west of Des Moines, Iowa. (See aerial photo)

**9. When will the donated land be transferred to the State of Iowa and what is the approximate value of the land?**

Given the complexity of this project and the legal and tax requirements that have to be accomplished, the state is working very closely with the donors to determine the most opportune time to transfer ownership. Tentatively, the transfer date is anticipated to be during the first six months of calendar year 2006. The estimated value of the donated land is between \$1,500,000 and \$2,000,000.

**10. How will the project be monitored?**

DAS will have direct responsibility for all project management activities per a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department of Veterans Affairs.